

A

REVIEW OF THE Affairs of FRANCE:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Tuesday, June 19. 1705.

I Am by all the most moving Arguments I am capable of, endeavouring to Exhort and Perswade the Disturbers of the Nations Peace, to Consider the fatal Error they are in.

I have argued from the Familiar Reasons of Interest and Safety, I have Talk'd as near as I could to the Understandings of the Meanest, and strove to Convince the Country People of a Truth, it is really some wonder any Man should now make a Question, viz. That Moderation cannot be Dangerous to the Church.

And really; Gentlemen, it seems strange to me, that any Man should Expect to have us believe Violent Methods should do any thing towards Reconciling of Parties.

In prosecuting this Subject, I have been oblig'd to Declare my self plainly against the late Party-Project, now become a By-word, and a Hissing to the whole Nation; I mean, the Tacking of a Persecution-Bill to the Land-Tax —— Without the least Personal Prejudice to any Man, I have Declar'd my Sense of the Thing.

I am Threatn'd hard to be call'd to an Account for the Freedom I have taken on this Head, to which I see no occasion to reply, I am not alone; I Declare against it as a very Terrible Attempt upon the Nations Peace, and I am in this Embark'd in very good Company, with whose Opinion my Judgment is Back'd, both Built on the solid Foundation of Truth and Liberty, and I cannot fear Suffering in such a Cause.

The Gentlemen that please themselves with the hopes of this, tell me, in their Angry Epistles, the very Method how I am to be a second Spectacle to the World, for this Freedom; that they are very sure the Ensuing Parliament will pursue the same Steps of the last; and that all those Gentlemen we have so ill Treated, will have their full Justification and Satisfaction.

I am so fully assured of the Justness of my Observations on this Head, that I cannot be sollicitous on that Score, nor at all afraid to say, That if the next Parliament should pursue the Steps of the last, the Na-

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tion, in my Opinion, will be so much nearer that Crisis of Time, when *English Liberty* being brought to the last Extremity, must open the Magazine of Original Power, which never yet fail'd to Overwhelm all the Attempts to Destroy her, and Buried the Enemies of her Peace, in the Rubbish of their own Abortive Projects, of which the late Revolution is not a Pattern only, but methinks ought to be as a Light-house, or Buoy, set upon a Dangerous Place to warn People of Splitting on those Shoars, where others have been Shipwreck'd before them.

And yet after all the hopes these Gentlemen have, of their fatal Project being grateful to the next Parliament, I must tell them plainly, if they are not out in their Calculations, I am sure I am out in mine, and I am content to wait the Issue——If the worst come, it will not be the first time I have been ill Treated, for saying that, the Truth of which, even the worst Enemy I have, cannot now Dispute.

But these Things are over, the Days of Oppression are gone; and tho' tis plain, all these Struggles are to revive them, yet the visible Appearance of the Government both in Church and State, in behalf of that Heavenly Temper of Moderation, gives us all Hopes, that could a few Diligent Disturbers be Reclaim'd, the Peace of this Nation might now be settled in such a Manner, as never to be broken more.

Never was there such a Juncture as this, when all the Powers of the Nation seem in a Conjunction to Establish us upon the Noble Basis of Truth and Liberty.

When the Queen Exhorts to Peace, the Nobility Concur, the Churches best Guides fall in Cheerfully, to the Christian Temper of Healing and Forbearance, that Blessed Quality they have so well Learn'd from their Meek and Lowly Lord and Master, whose Pattern they follow more to the Glory of the *English Church*, than some Ages have been able to show before them.

Now is the Time to Unite, Peace is the Natural Product of Justice and Charity, and the prevailing Assistance of the whole Establish'd Power of the Nation, is so great, that should any Intervening Mischief prevent it, the Cause must be among our selves, and our

Children will Reproach us, with missing the Blessed Occasion.

From our Home Arguments I have taken leave to make a little use of the Circumstances of Nations, and by Comparing things in a manner suited to the Subject we are upon, we shall find Foreigners Preaching their Doctrine to us both from what has been acted, and what is now acting on the Stage of the World.

Every Fable has its Moral, and I know nothing more Moving in all the present Affairs Abroad, than this Natural Consequence; The farther we are from *Peace Abroad*, the nearer we ought to be to *Peace at Home*; while a Tedious, an Expensive, and a Dangerous War is on our Hands, every Article of it calls aloud to us to UNITE; every Enemy, every Battle, every Siege repeats the lively Exhortation UNITE; and the Forcible Argument redoubles every Campaigne; every part of the War produces the same Moral; every Blow you receive from the Enemy, dictates to us, not to wound one another, since we have enough to rejoice in our Wounds Abroad, and to add Sorrows of a worse Nature to our Popular Afflictions.

Are the French Growing in Power? We have the more need to Unite our Strength and Interests to Subdue them, and to prevent their being able to reduce their Neighbours by force, and so Impose Universal Slavery on Mankind.

Are they Declining in Power? Let us Unite our Force then, to give them one Killing Blow, that may prevent their rising again.

In vain Armies Fight, in vain the Duke of Marlborough's Conduct and Courage, is a Glory to these Parts of the World; in vain *English Men Die*, if Strife at Home Debilitates the Nation, and opens the Door to all manner of Traitors, by Inflinations, and Private intrigues, to weaken the strong Confederated Powers of an *English Settlement*.

One *Tack'd Clause* might have been a greater Blow to *England*, than this Battle at *Hochsted* was to the *French*; it might, in Ages to come, have cost us more than a Twenty Years War, and the Mischiefs Brooding

Brooding in that Horrid Design, were more in Number, and greater in Consequence, than, I hope, the very Actors forelaw, or the Defenders of it can themselves yet Imagine.

Let then Examples a little Illustrate this Argument, tho' our own Case is so near us, one would think it wanted no Illustration; but let us look a little Abroad, let us look into United France; How hard do we find it to break their Power? How Difficult to Wound their State, where all is of a piece? And where the strong Cement of Popular Affection, fixes the Peoples Interest to their King, and the Stream runs all one way.

On the other Hand, view the Divided Empire, How feeble is its Force? How does its Constitution totter at every Shock? How near has it been, and how often to the Door of Destruction, on but slight Occasions? Unable to bear the Convulsions of its own State, or resist the Depredations of Naked and Halfarm'd Scavonians? How many times has the whole Frame of Imperial Constitution, been at this Crisis! — Two Days Delay, at the Relief of Vienna, had in all probability, Dissolv'd the German Empire; the Loss of that Battle of Hocksted, had certainly Transposed the Crown from the House of Austria, to the House of Bavaria, and fix'd the whole German Empire in the Interest, and indeed under the Management of France.

To proceed to Poland; What Miseries, what Blood, what Plunder of Friends, and robbing of Enemies, do the Divided People suffer? It would be Endless to repeat their Miseries, Ravag'd by Foreign Armies, and torn in pieces by intestine Feuds among themselves.

The Muscovites, with 100000 Men on one side, the Swedes with 40000 Men on another, the Saxons with 26000 Men on a third; one Plunder here, another there; What Inestimable Wealth have they Destroy'd? How have they laid Waste the Granary of Europe, and suffered Fire and Sword to Triumph over the Fruitful Plains of the Vistula and the Dwina; and all by the Fatal Strife of Parties that are Cutting one another's Throats, for the Sport and Division of their Enemies.

I hope I need not look into History, we have seen with our Eyes, and our Fathers have Declared unto us, the Terrible Havock, Strife, and Contention once made in this Nation, and remote Histories need not be Consulted in the Case.

In short, If you would not be Hungary, Oppress'd with Church Tyrants, Priests, and Mercenaries; if you would not be Poland, Over-run with Foreigners, and Barbarous Auxiliaries; if you would not be Germany, Insulted by your Weakest Neighbour; if you have any Power to take Warning by others, or any Fore-sight of your own Destruction, Encline to Peace, bend your Thoughts to Peace, practise it your selves, and Exhort to it in others.

THE Reader is Desir'd to Correct the following Errors in our last.

P. 178. col. 2. l. 8. for any read my, p. 179. col. 2. line 20. to Observing, add People say.

On Saturday next will be Published, THE Appendix to the Review; Together with an Index of the First Volume; which when Finished, will Compleat the said First Volume of the Reviews: And all those Gentlemen, who have bespoke of the Author, the said First Volume Entire, may have them Deliver'd, Bound up together with all the Supplements, in a Weeks time at farthest, at F. Markew's, or at the Publishers of the Review.

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